

Library
University South Carolina
Columbia
Richland County
South Carolina

13-11
HABS NO. SC-177

HABS
SC
40-COLUM,
2A-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of South Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

HABS
31

20 1825

1.1

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Sumter and College Streets
Columbia, Richland County
South Carolina

Owner: University of South Carolina.

Date of Erection: 1825.

Architect: Attributed to Robert Mills.

Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Three.

Materials of Construction: Brick.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

THE LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA, S. C.

SURVEY NO. 13-11

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"The History of the University of South Carolina", by Edwin L. Green, states that the professors of the South Carolina College designed the building, and a Mr. Beck was the contractor.

In "Robert Mills, Architect", a pamphlet by Mr. C. C. Wilson, of Columbia, S.C., the author treats of the tradition that Mills designed the building, although some features, such as lack of fireproof construction and ceiling design, are not worthy of Mills' genius. Lack of money and poor plaster workers may have accounted for these shortcomings.

Nevertheless, this very fine structure was completed in 1840 and is attributed to Robert Mills by tradition.

The building passed through the War Between the States unharmed, and the Confederates even exempted it from use during their occupancy of the University for a hospital. In 1885, the Senate of the South Carolina Legislative body began to use the building for its meetings, and continued to do so for two years.

Except for repairs and the addition of electricity and furnace, the building remained in its original form until 1928, when Carroll Johnson, architect, of Columbia, designed the fireproof east and west wings and renovated the entire structure.

The library contains not only rare volumes of general interest but much has been collected treating of South

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Carolina.

The present librarian is Mr. Robert Kennedy.

Sources of material: The History of the University of South Carolina, by Edwin L. Green ; Robert Mills, Architect, by Mr. C. C. Wilson; and data supplied by Francis E. Sims, Squad Leader, HABS

Approved
James L. Graham

District Officer #13

Renewed 1936, H.C.F.